

Ser. No. 09/578,192  
Art Unit: 3624

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**REMARKS**

The specification was objected to for having an abstract exceeding 150 words. Claims 1-24 and 34 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Under 35 USC § 101, claims 1-13 and 30-32 were rejected because it was unclear from  
5 the use of "system" and "tool" if the Applicant intends for the invention to be directed to a method or apparatus.

Claims 25-29 and 33 were allowed. Claims 14-24 and 34 would be allowable if  
10 rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 112.

The abstract is being amended to about 140 words to meet the 150-word limit. Amendments are being made to the claims to clarify antecedent problems noted by the Examiner. The first occurrence of "series" in claim 1 occurs on line 19, last line of the  
15 "attribute-tree analyzer". Thus "series" has proper antecedent.

For claim 10, "a value" is intended, since the value stored by the data store of claim 9 could be a value from the seller web site that is not a delta value per se.

Clarification was requested for claim 14. For claim 14, the input means and delta  
20 values are not intended to be specific to buyer or seller. Instead a more generic "user" is claimed to input the delta values. Dependent claim 18 further specifies that the user can be buyer or seller while claim 19 further recites that users can include facilitators and market makers.

25 In regard to the 35 USC § 101 rejection, Applicant intends that claims 1-13 and 30-32 are directed to an apparatus.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-34, as amended, are in a position for allowance. This application was filed with formal drawings that have not been amended. Applicant believes that a full and complete response to the office action has been made. Reconsideration and re-examination is respectfully requested. Allowance of  
5 the claims at an early date is solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this application, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (831) 476-5506.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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